(c) if so, the time by when the railway overbridge would be ready?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is learnt that foundation stone laying ceremony was held by State authorities.

(c) Diversion of road for construction of Road over bridge (Railway portion) is in progress. Target date for completion of Railway portion of work is December, 2010.

Joint venture of Indian steel industry with overseas partners

3805. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian steel industry, cautious in current economic scenario, have preferred joint ventures and acquisition deals while getting into tie up with partners overseas;

(b) if so, whether Japan, the third largest steel maker is reportedly looking for a venture with India's Bhushan Steel to set up a $1.8 bn. steel factory in West Bengal;

(c) whether the demand of steel is going to be stabilised in the latter part of 2009 as per the expectation of World Steel Association Industry; and

(d) if so, to what extent it will help the steel industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Joint venture and acquisition overseas are commercial activities of the concerned companies are not normally made public until their finalization and approval. The details regarding proposals of steel companies for joint ventures and acquisition overseas are not available in the Ministry of Steel. However, on a specific query, M/s. Bhushan Steel Limited has informed that, the company is currently having preliminary discussion on the issue of joint venture with some of the Japanese companies for their projects in India.

(c) In the "Worldsteel Short Range Outlook" published on 27th April, 2009 the World Steel Association (worldsteel) had made a forecast that worldwide apparent steel use is expected to decline by – 14.9% to 1,018.6 million metric tonnes (mmt) in 2009 after declining by (-) 1.4% (1,197 mmt) in 2008. However, World Steel Association has predicted that world steel demand is expected to stabilize in the latter part of 2009 leading to a mild recovery in 2010.

(d) A stability in world steel market is expected to cause a steady demand – supply situation, thereby, helping the industry to plan for its future business growth.

Diversification of activities of NMDC and MECON Ltd.

3806. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether PSUs like National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd., MECON Ltd. Have